A.M.A. Broaches Plan to Boost Pay For Interns, Residents

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of the traditional level and method of financial compensation of house officers is vital to attract an adequate number of young persons into the medical profession and to assure that all future physicians receive the full degreee of training they desire.

The increasing cost of hospitalization to the patient is a major concern of the public, the profession and hospitals, the report pointed out, adding:

"Under the present system of financing intern and resident programs, an increased burden will be placed on the patient as hospitals generally increase the salaries paid to house officers."

The community, particularly its medical component, have an opportunity and responsibility to influence those concerned with the operation of prepaid medical care plans to assure that such income be made available for graduate training programs, the councils said. The methods for improving the salary level must be developed locally through the mutual efforts of hospitals, health insurance groups and welfare and other community agencies, they said.

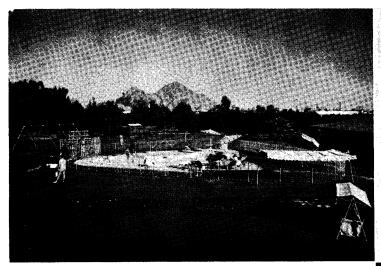
If contributions from the hospital governing body, and from the community, as well as collections of fees for the care of paying patients are insufficient to provide the desired salary levels, then the hospital's attending staff should accept the responsibility for providing the needed funds by the most appropriate means, they said.

In developing an appropriate method, the councils said, any increased costs involved should be spread among the hospital, attending staff, and patients in proportion to the benefits each receives from the services of the interns and residents.

Recognizing that there are difficulties regarding the billing and collecting of fees from paying patients or prepayment plans for the services of interns and residents, the councils said these difficulties might be obviated if the interns and residents were employed by a partnership of the hospital's attending staff. Under such an arrangement, they said, the partnership could bill and collect fees ethically and legally for the services of its employees.

FIELD TEST OF SIMPLE, FOAM-PRODUCING CHEMICAL CONTRA-CEPTIVE—A. Russell and A. R. Parchment. New York J. Med., 62:2491 (Aug. 1) 1962.

A field trial of contraceptive foam-producing liquid used with an insertable moistened sponge was carried out in Jamaica, West Indies. The study, which lasted an average period of nine months, included 640 women. There were 18 pregnancies, or 4.2 per 100 years of woman exposure, as compared with the normal rate in the population of 70 to 80 per 100 exposure years. The method is inexpensive, simple, and suited for use by women with little education and low income.



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